BMNR-342.5
Stephanopachys

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4500 September 20, 1960

Mr. Dwight Slawson, Manager
Western Insecticide Company
159 South Browne Street
Post Office Box 1003
Spokane, Washington

Dear Mr. Slawson:

The delay in reply to your letter of August 26 was due to my being on the Pacific Coast from August 28 to September 16. Your letter did not reach us until September 8.

Detailed information concerning the habits of the different species of Stephanopachys is quite limited. The assumption is that since it is of little economic importance in buildings, not much work has been done in working out its life history. Some general observations have been made from time to time concerning its presence in recently constructed buildings here in the East, which probably apply equally as well to the species that occur in the West.

Apparently there is only one generation a year of this insect and the new adults of the eastern species emerge in the spring during April or May in the vicinity of New York. Those species attacking pine feed mainly in the bark, penetrating the outer sapwood for one-fourth to one-half inch in order to pupate and transform to adult beetles. Circular holes about one-sixteenth of an inch in diameter are made in the surface of the bark when they emerge. Apparently its attack is associated with strips of bark on the edges of floor joists, subflooring, etc.

The general consensus of opinion is that it causes no structural damage and except for the concern it causes to the homeowner by pushing boring dust from the bark, it is of little consequence. As far as known, it will not reinfest the wood from which it emerges.

The beetles or larvae should be readily controlled by saturating the bark and adjacent wood with a refined kerosene oil, such as ultrasene or deobase, containing either 0.5 percent lindane, aldrin, or dieldrin, 2 percent chlordane, or 5 percent DDT. Mineral spirits will suffice if the above mentioned oils are not available. The advantages in using the refined oils are their high flash point, making them safer to use than kerosene or fuel oil, their cleanliness and their lack of odor. Where feasible, it would be desirable to remove and destroy the bark before applying the insecticide to the surface of the infested wood.

It is suggested that you write to the Director of the Pacific Northwest Forest and Range Experiment Station, P. O. Box 4059, Portland 8, Oregon, to see if they have any additional information available on the subject.

Sincerely yours,

R. A. St. George
Entomologist

cc: NW F&RES ✓
Mr. Spear NPCA

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